

ACTIVITY: Fell off surf ski
CASE: [GSAF 1951.03.26](#)
DATE: Monday March 26, 1951
LOCATION: Avalon Beach, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Ken Davidson
DESCRIPTION: He was a 23-year-old male, a member of the Avalon Surf Lifesaving Club.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The weather was "perfect".
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, March 23, 1951
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 15 yards
DEPTH OF WATER: Four feet
TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: The lifesaver was on a surf ski, attempting to scare the shark out of the bathing area, when the shark overturned the ski and bit him.

INJURY: "Severely mauled about the chest."

TREATMENT: He was given ambulance treatment and a local doctor gave him an anti-tetanus injection. His injury was repaired with three stitches.

SPECIES: The incident involved a carpet shark, about four feet in length. Lifesavers subsequently speared the shark and brought it ashore.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; the lifesaver grabbed the shark by its tail.

SOURCE: The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld), Tuesday March 27, 1951, page 1; The Canberra Times, March 27, 1951, page 2.

Lifesaver Mauled By Carpet Shark

SYDNEY, Monday.

A young lifesaver was severely mauled about the chest by a four-foot carpet shark at Avalon Beach this afternoon.

Despite large crowds there were comparatively few rescues or accidents at metropolitan beaches to-day. In perfect weather 175,000 people crowded the seaside.

The lifesaver injured is K. Davidson, 23, a member of Avalon Surf Life Saving Club.

Davidson was on a surf ski attempting to scare the shark out to sea after bathers had been driven from the water by the shark alarm.

About 15 yards from shore the shark overturned the ski in four feet of water, and Davidson was mauled on the chest.

He struggled ashore and was given ambulance treatment.

A local doctor gave Davidson an anti-tetanus injection. His condition is not serious.

Later lifesavers speared the shark and brought it ashore.

LIFESAVER BITTEN FIGHTING SHARK

SYDNEY, Monday.—Avalon lifesaver Ken Davidson was bitten in the stomach while fighting a 6ft. carpet shark to-day.

He fought the shark in 5ft. of water to prevent its attacking surfers.

When the alarm was given Davidson raced into the water with his surf-board and paddled out to the shark.

"It was swimming towards a group of small children playing in the surf," he said later.

"The only way I could stop it from getting close to them was to grab hold of its tail."

Spearman wins

While Ken fought with the shark, his brother Neil dived under it and stabbed it twice.

The shark broke away and swam at Max McCredie, another life-saver, who leaped up, and the shark darted beneath him.

Neil Davidson then drove the spear through the shark, which was dragged ashore and killed.

Ken Davidson had to have three stitches in his wound.

*The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld)
Tuesday March 27, 1951, page 1*